

SUMMER 2020 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine





Dr. Chris Maggio
1985, 1991
President
Northwestern State
University

Dear Alumni:

2020 has not been what we expected. No one could have predicted that so many aspects of our lives would be disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Making decisions during a time of many unknowns can be difficult, but we are guided by prioritizing the health and safety of our campus community and the university's educational mission. The NSU faculty accomplished an enormous task in moving course instruction online in a short time and our students showed their willingness to adapt and persevere, though many completed the semester under less than ideal circumstances.

Looking towards the future, NSU is joining sister schools in the University of Louisiana System in planning for a fall reopening. Plans will be announced as details are finalized but we are working together to develop a framework of guidelines that are focused on the health and safety of the NSU community. Things will be a bit different, but it will be wonderful to see our campuses come back to life.

I want to thank you for the many positive messages, texts and comments that you sent to share your thoughts on the work the university has done to make the best of a trying situation. Our faculty and staff have gone to great lengths to assist students -- and each other -- in navigating this new normal.

Finally, I join leaders throughout the nation in voicing our commitment to ensuring that every individual served and touched by this institution is treated equally, fairly and with genuine dignity. I ask that you join me in pledging to work vigorously to establish an atmosphere at our university where every person is honored, respected and treated equally and with the utmost decency.

Please continue to support our students and the mission of our alma mater. Thank you for all you do for Northwestern State University.



Dr. Drake Owens
2004, 2005
Assistant Vice
President of External
Affairs for University
Advancement

Dear Alumni:

It is evident that when times get tough, our alumni supporters band together to make it through. I want to thank every one of you who contributed to our COVID Emergency Assistance Fund, purchased or made face masks and recognized our healthcare workers, first responders and others by providing meals, child-care and emotional support to those working to protect us all.

A sudden and unexpected pause to our routines sometimes provides an opportunity to reevaluate, reflect and reorganize. I've been aware of more people reaching out to old friends, getting better acquainted with neighbors and tackling projects they had been putting off. In a way, social distancing has made us more focused on our immediate surroundings and the blessings we may have been overlooking during our previously over-scheduled lives.

The Alumni and Development staff are moving forward and preparing for fall events, even though we are a bit uncertain how some of those events will be executed. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Hopefully -- sooner rather than later -- we will see each other again. In the meantime, take care of yourselves and each other. Thanks for all you do to support NSU.

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STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

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Golden Jubilee, Long Purple Line induction rescheduled

Two big events are back on the books at Northwestern State University. The NSU Alumni Association has rescheduled the Golden Jubilee celebration for the Class of 1970 Homecoming weekend, Oct. 16-17 and the Long Purple Line induction program for Friday, Oct. 30.

The Golden Jubilee will include a lunch at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 16 for all 50-year graduates. Guests will be given Natchitoches Welcome Bags and can spend the afternoon shopping and exploring downtown Natchitoches before the 5:30 p.m. Homecoming parade. A reception will take place at 7 p.m. with location to be determined in which 50-year graduates will be recognized.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, guests can join a bus tour of area plantations before

the Golden Jubilee tailgate begins at 2 p.m. Participants will receive a wristband for the tailgate, football game and parking pass.

Members of the Class of 1970 interested in receiving information on the Golden Jubilee celebration should contact Danielle Cobb at cobbd@nsula.edu or (318) 357-5513.

Six distinguished Northwestern State University alumni were inducted into the university's Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line. This year's inductees are state official Sujuan Boutte of Prairieville, businessman Harvey F. Marcus Sr. of Monroe, Louisiana State University Head Football Coach Ed Orgeron of Baton Rouge, NSU Vice President for External Affairs Jerry Pierce, Fed Ex executive John A. Smith of Memphis,

Tennessee, and former NSU faculty member Thomas Whitehead of Natchitoches.

The Long Purple Line was established to provide recognition and appreciation to individuals whose career accomplishments or service to their fellow man have enhanced the reputation and prestige of Northwestern State.

The Long Purple Line induction will begin with a reception at 10:30 a.m. for former inductees into the Long Purple Line followed by a noon luncheon and induction ceremony at the Natchitoches Events Center. Check-in for the lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at <https://longpurpleline2020.eventbrite.com> through Oct. 27.

COEHD planning 20th anniversary celebration



The Hall of Distinguished Educators, sponsored by NSU's Gallaspy of Education and Human Development, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this October. As a special celebration new members will not be selected this year; rather, there will be a holistic celebration of all recipients and our heritage, according

to Dr. Kimberly McAlister, dean of the College.

"We are campaigning to endow a scholarship as part of the event," McAlister said. "We will be soliciting all past recipients, their families, as well as general public to honor a teacher that significantly impacted their life."

More details will be available as plans are finalized, McAlister said.

For more information, contact McAlister at mcalisterk@nsula.edu or (318) 357-6288

--- SAVE THE DATE ---

*Greek Centennial
Celebration*

NORTHWESTERN STATE



Learn more at nsula.edu/greeks100

April 9, 10, & 11, 2021

On the cover: First-generation college student Char'Tarian Wilson of Greenwood, Class of 2020

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Former president Dr. Robert Alost dies

Former Northwestern State University president Dr. Robert Alost, who led the university from 1986-1996, died April 17, 2020, after a long illness. Before becoming president, Alost, 85, served NSU as a faculty member, department head and dean. He was also co-founder of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts and director of the school from 1982 to 1986.

A memorial scholarship was created to honor Alost. Friends are invited to contribute to the scholarship by visiting <http://www.northwesternstatealumni.com/alost-scholarship/>.

Criteria for the scholarship is still in development.

During his presidency at NSU, Alost led the university to an unprecedented period of growth when enrollment at Northwestern State increased from 5,272 to more than 9,000. That substantial increase laid the foundation for progress in academic achievement, athletic success, facility enhancements and other accomplishments that provided ongoing stability for the university after a period of declining enrollment and fiscal uncertainty.

"All alumni of Northwestern owe Dr. Alost a debt of gratitude for guiding and advocating for our university," said NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio. "He was a mentor to me personally and professionally and a strong leader through uncertain times at NSU."

"President Alost led Northwestern State through a difficult era, and established a standard of not just surviving adversity, but thriving in its midst," said University of Louisiana System President Dr. Jim Henderson. "He was simultaneously imposing and infinitely approachable. Personally, I am forever grateful for his mentorship and friendship."

During his tenure, Alost oversaw the development of the Louisiana Scholars' College, Louisiana's designated honors college, and was engaged in the initial organization of the Department of Creative and Performing Arts, helping to establish the scholarship budget that was critical to the development of CAPA programs.

Also during his administration, Northwestern became the first university in the nation to participate in the Joint Venture (JOVE) Program with NASA. He played an instrumental role in bringing the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training to NSU. He also oversaw the development of a doctoral program in educational technology, visionary for its time, designed to instruct educators on the most effective methods of using technology in the classroom.

Alost first stepped onto the Northwestern campus as an undergraduate in 1953. He was a two-year football letterman in the 1954 and 1955 seasons for the Demons, playing tackle.

He earned a bachelor's degree at Northwestern in 1957 and a master's degree in 1958. He earned a doctorate from Louisiana State University in 1963 and returned to Northwestern later that year as a faculty member in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.



Dr. Robert Alost
1935-2020

In 1968, he became chairman of the department and was elevated to dean of the College of Education in 1975.

In 1982, Alost left Northwestern to become director of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts, the nation's first residential secondary school for academically gifted and artistically talented students. He returned to NSU four years later to serve as president.

"We cannot begin to count the number of students and families positively impacted by Dr. Alost's work in education," said Dr. Steve Horton, LSMSA executive director. "He was a visionary beyond measure, and our deepest condolences are with his family at this time."

Active in numerous professional, civic and religious organizations, Alost was past president of the Natchitoches Parish Chamber of Commerce and served on the Board of Directors of the Natchitoches Tourist Commission. He was named Natchitoches' Man of the Year in 1987. He was named to a 46-member NCAA Council Board of Directors in 1992.

Alost was inducted into the Northwestern Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line, in 2005 and was named a Natchitoches Treasure in 2018. He was inducted into NSU's N Club Hall of Fame in 1990. Last year he was inducted into the Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. D. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame.

Eckert committed to advocacy for teachers, students

Brusly High School teacher and Northwestern State University alumna Kimberly Eckert was named one of 50 finalists for the \$1 million Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize. Each year, the Varkey Foundation partners with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to recognize a teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to the teaching community. To be considered, a teacher must be nominated by a former finalist then complete a comprehensive application process.

The top 50 shortlist has representatives from 37 countries. Eckert is Louisiana's first Global Teacher Prize finalist and just one of five from the United States this year.

Eckert earned a bachelor's degree in social work at Northwestern State, completed her teacher preparation program through LRCE and earned a master's degree in special education at NSU. She is currently two courses short of a second master's in curriculum and instruction with a reading focus from NSU.

She has been teaching in West Baton Rouge Parish for 11 years. In addition to teaching English I, she has also served as a special education inclusion teacher, a reading interventionist, speech teacher, mentor and master teacher as well as an instructional coach. Since being named Louisiana's teacher of the Year in 2018, Eckert has spearheaded the Educator's Rising program as the state coordinator, working to bring it to communities across Louisiana. The program focuses on elevating and diversifying the teaching community by encouraging high school students to begin training for a teaching career.

Eckert spoke about how the last two years has impacted her teaching and career.

"My work, the reasons why I teach, my commitment to advocacy for students and teachers...none of that has changed," she said. "However, I've been given a tremendous responsibility and a megaphone to amplify my work and the needs of Louisiana classrooms. The things I valued and would strive to communicate in my first nine years of teaching remained the same, but over the past three years more people started to listen.

"I do not believe teachers should have to win awards to be recognized as experts in our field, but I will take every opportunity that comes my way to ensure people know that, too. As for teaching, my students impact me the most every day. They don't care about having a teacher with awards. They just need a teacher they can trust to teach them, love them, and fight for them."

Eckert said the greatest need now is enough educators to give every child a high-quality education and their best access to options, no matter their zip code.

"This is a promise we have made to students, and it's one that is impossible to keep until we mitigate teacher shortage by bolstering the pipeline, retaining and supporting the effective teachers we have and elevating the teaching profession so that top talent sees it for the life-changing,



Kimberly Eckert

global force that it is," she said. "Though my research and efforts to recruit teachers started years ago, my work with Educators Rising has allowed me to not only empower myself, but to also empower other districts to actually do something about teacher shortage. Even if every program is only able to produce a teacher or two through Ed Rising, we'll still end up with two more 21st century teachers committed to equity for all. Given that one highly skilled teacher is able to impact hundreds of lives. I'd say that's tremendous."

She said great teachers know that student success comes not strictly from tests and grading, but from relationships, connections and figuring out how to help human beings thrive. Connections are especially important amid social distancing and distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic and its disruption of the spring 2020 school year.

"We all quickly started to realize the weight and role of teachers and schools in our communities given the epic exodus of our access to them. However, we still have access to each other," she said.

When asked to offer words of encouragement to teachers and students, she shared the following.

"To teachers, you've never been more needed and valued. We have collectively shown an entire world what we do with limited resources, intense demands, very little time, and

seemingly endless change. We teach, we connect, we adapt so that our students can thrive. We're irreplaceable. Take care of yourself but take courage from this moment. People see you.

"To my own students, I've told them that their whole generation all across the world will be defined, in part, by these moments. With the moments that we have, like all the others, make the most out of them. During these crazy times, try your best to work hard, play harder, love hardest. None of this was expected, but for the first time in forever, the whole world is in it together."

– Kimberly Eckert

"...my students impact me the most every day. They don't care about having a teacher with awards. They just need a teacher they can trust to teach them, love them, and fight for them."

Brumley will serve as state superintendent of education

The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education named Northwestern State University alumnus Dr. Cade Brumley state superintendent of education. His appointment was confirmed by the state Senate with a start date set for June 8. Brumley will replace John White, who resigned earlier this year.

"As a Louisiana native, I am extremely honored to be selected by a student-friendly BESE," Brumley said. "Louisiana may not be the largest state in the union, but we have a big table for collaboration. I look forward to bringing people together to collectively move our state forward. We are primed for continued improvement, drawing on successes of the past and the promise for our future. I will fight for our children, families, and communities each day. They deserve our best."

During his career Brumley has served students as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, district leader and superintendent, most recently as superintendent of Jefferson Parish schools since he was unanimously appointed to that position in 2018, and as superintendent in DeSoto Parish schools from 2012-18.

Brumley earned a bachelor's degree in health and human performance with a minor in social studies at Northwestern State in 2002, a master's in education administration from LSU-S in 2004 and a doctorate in education leadership at Stephen F. Austin in 2007.

He began his career as a teacher and coach in Caddo Parish before serving as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and later principal in Sabine Parish. During his tenure in DeSoto, schools there vaulted from being ranked 49th in the state to ninth.

In Jefferson Parish, Louisiana's largest school district, Brumley implemented changes that included expanding the parish's Spanish-language offerings for new arrivals, changing some traditional middle schools into K-8 schools and reorganizing the central office. Brumley also helped marshal business leaders and teacher unions to convince voters to endorse a 10-year property tax hike to raise pay for teachers and other employees. That increase, combined with another \$5 million in cost savings enacted earlier, increased starting teacher salaries from about

\$41,000 per year to about \$46,000, the second highest in the New Orleans area.

Brumley is also a graduate of the Harvard Superintendents Academy and author of "Leadership Standards in Action: The School Principal as Servant-Leader." He is a dynamic public speaker, a triathlete and marathoner.

Brumley has remained involved at Northwestern and currently serves on the board of director of the NSU Alumni Association.

Brumley was honored by NSU's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development in 2015 when he was named an Outstanding Young Professional in Education, an award that recognizes outstanding young professionals who made contributions in Pre-K through higher education or to the profession of education through teaching, research or community service.

Brumley is married to the former Toni Vail, who earned undergraduate and graduate degrees at NSU in 2000 and 2002. They are parents to two sons.

"We offer hearty congratulations to Dr. Brumley, an educator, administrator and advocate with a demonstrated history of leadership whose first priority has always been the students he serves," said NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio. "We are proud that one of our own will assume this role and we believe that a bright future is ahead for the children and youth of Louisiana."

Brumley is one of three NSU alumni to serve as Louisiana's superintendent of education. T.H. Harris, who served in that role from 1908-1940, was enrolled at Louisiana State Normal College, as NSU was then known, in 1893. William "Bill" Dodd, who served from 1964-72, graduated in 1934.



Dr. P. Cade Brumley

Athaline Edgar, survivor of two pandemics, celebrates 102nd birthday



Athaline Edgar celebrated her 102nd birthday May 31. Now a resident of Duncan, Oklahoma, Edgar was born during the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 and attended Louisiana State Normal College, as NSU was known in the 1930s. She began her teaching career in DeRidder, teaching from 1936-1938, where she lived in a boarding house with other teachers. She met her husband and the couple married just four months later. His career in the oilfield took them to Odessa, Texas. "I taught teachers, lawyers and many other professionals in our community," Edgar said. One of Edgar's current caretakers, now a retired Duncan teacher, was in her kindergarten class. She also taught Sunday school for many years. Niece Susan Mitchell helped Edgar recall a few of her favorite memories from walking across a creek or bridge, instead of riding in the buggy, selling produce with her daddy and going to the movies where it "cost a whopping 10 cents," Edgar said. "No snacks there either."

Edgar said for her graduation, "they rode the bridge at the Red River."

"I hated to sew in high school, was always ripping out," Edgar said but was one of the greatest accomplishments in her life when she eventually became a very good seamstress.

"The best invention was the zipper," she said. "Before the zipper everything had to be buttoned or tied. Technology has been pretty great, too. I do Skype with my grandson once a week or so."

Edgar said she had a few words to the community and upcoming generation from her past 102 years of learning.

"Hang in there. It will get better," Edgar said. "Also, learn to cook. I didn't know how when I got married, could make candy and cakes though. Most of all, learn a profession."

Edgar is pictured accompanied by her nieces Sandra Knoll and Mitchell.

Leadership award named for Lamar Bryant

Lamar Bryant, associate dean of students at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, was honored by the Southeastern Greek Leadership Association (SGLA) who named an award after him, the Lamar Bryant National Pan-Hellenic Council of the Year Award, in recognition of his representation of and advocacy for fraternal organizations. Bryant was a key player in uniting the Multicultural Greek Councils (MGC) and the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) with the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the National Panhellenic Council (NPC).

The honor will be awarded to one council from each of the four umbrella councils, NPHC, NPC, MGC and IFC, who are recognized as the best of their respective institutions. The awards were created to honor the councils who go above and beyond to represent excellence and to represent what it means to be a part of fraternal organizations.

Bryant was able to present the inaugural award himself to Jacksonville State University's NPHC council earlier this year.

"Receiving this honor made me sit there and say 'wow,'" Bryant said. "Being fully present in that special moment was actually quite reinvigorating. It gave me even more motivation to continue living out my purpose through my work in higher education, and to continue striving to be my best self every day, not just for myself, but for the people I have the honor to work alongside as well."

Bryant joined UT's Office of the Dean of Students in January, but he has been making his mark in Greek life for several years. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in marketing at Northwestern State in 2004 and a master's degree in college student personnel administration in 2007. He is currently a doctoral candidate in the higher education program at the University of North Texas.

Since NSU and prior to his current position, he has worked as student development specialist for fraternity and sorority life at the University of Texas at Tyler and the University of Georgia, assistant dean of students and director of student involvement at Bethune Cookman University, assistant director of student activities at Baylor University and director of leadership and service at Baylor.

Bryant's wife, the former Kattina Raymond, earned a degree in psychology in 2005 at NSU where she was a track and field athlete. She earned a master's in social work at UTA in 2009.

He admits that he approaches his work with great passion. "I do this work because I genuinely care. I do it because I truly believe that when done right, the fraternity and sorority life experience is one of the premier student development experiences on any college campus. I honestly believe that because of the way my own fraternal experience has impacted my life, and over the years, I have had the privilege of seeing it positively impact so many of my students' lives as well," he said.

Bryant is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. He was drawn to the organization because of its values and tenets, and the passion he expressed towards his membership in Alpha Phi Alpha provides insight into how he views Greek organizations.

"As I thought about the person wanted to be and how I saw myself living my life, there was a direct correlation to my fraternity. It was important for

me to know that I could be who I was created to be, even after I became a fraternity man. Ultimately, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. enhanced the things that were already important to me, and that personal alignment is something I really appreciate.

Bryant transitioned off of the SGLA board at the end of the 2020 Annual Conference, but that doesn't mean he's planning to stop serving the sorority and fraternity community anytime soon.

"I still feel like I have a lot of years left in me. I am excited to have the honor of helping present the NPHC Council of the Year Award to deserving students each year at the SGLA awards banquet, and I hope that I can stay in this profession and continue to make valuable contributions for a really long time."



Lamar Bryant

"I am certain Northwestern State University helped shape me into the person I am today, both personally and professionally."

He wants to continue to make an impact on the sorority and fraternity community and help them realize their full potential. "I want to continue helping them understand what it means to live their ritual; more specifically, I want to help affiliated students understand both the privilege and responsibility

that comes with membership in their respective fraternal organizations."

"I am certain Northwestern State University helped shape me into the person I am today, both personally and professionally. I will forever be grateful for my time at NSU, and I hope to continue to stay connected with my NSU family for years to come," he said. "During recent uncertain times, I was reminded of the power of community, and I certainly found my community as a student at Northwestern State."

Spotlights

Mack rises in Baton Rouge cancer care organization



Danielle Mack

Danielle Mack (2003) has been named vice president and chief development officer for the Mary Bird Perkins Center, a Baton Rouge cancer care organization. Mack, a certified fund raising executive, has nearly 15 years' experience building and managing fund development, volunteer engagement and special event programs.

A nearly 10-year member of Mary Bird Perkins' development team, Mack has provided oversight and leadership in advancing philanthropic support throughout southeast Louisiana. She most recently served as the interim chief development officer, leading the organization's philanthropic strategy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mack graduated from NSU in with a degree in journalism with a concentration on public relations.

Mack has also worked at the LSU Foundation and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Her career highlights include securing multiple major gifts of \$50,000 and above and leading strategy for a successful annual giving program resulting in 95 percent growth.

In 2018, Mack was named Outstanding Professional Fundraiser by the Greater Baton Rouge Chapter of Association of Fundraising Professionals, serving as the organization's youngest recipient of this prestigious local award. She is a graduate of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber's Class of 2014 Leadership Class, 2019 John W. Barton Sr. Community Leadership Program and 2019 Adweek Executive Mentee.

"I have been blessed to experience firsthand the power of philanthropy each and every day within the organization," said Mack. "As Mary Bird Perkins approaches its 50th anniversary, I am pleased to lead and work with our generous supporters and dedicated Cancer Center team during this forthcoming milestone to provide the funds that make the highest-level of cancer care possible. It's an honor and earned responsibility that I will work to uphold to the highest levels of transparency and trust."

Ed Price (1981) was appointed Chief Nursing Office of Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, California. He joined the team there in February.

Price was previously at Sutter Delta Medical Center, Antioch, California, where he had served as Chief Nurse Executive since July 2018. Prior to his time there, he served as CNO for Tenet Healthcare facilities' Shelby Baptist Medical Center in Alabaster, Alabama; Florida Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale,

Florida; and Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center in Florida.

"The best thing about working with talented and esteemed caregivers is seeing their devotion and commitment to caring for each patient with dignity and grace," said Price.

Price holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from NSU, and a Master's in Business Administration from Regis University, Colorado.

Retiring as a major in the United States Air Force in 1997, Price provided service to the U.S. for 17 years. He was a world-wide consultant for the Department of Defense for hyperbaric nursing and an instructor for the Air Force Flight Nurse School and Combat Nursing Course.

Montelius promoted to assistant director of Ascension OHSEP

Ascension Parish President Clint Cointment has named Dustin Montelius (2017) as assistant director of the Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. He was previously serving as Operations Section Chief.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is a type of emergency none of us has ever faced before," Cointment said. "Dustin really distinguished himself during this time and has more than merited this promotion."

Montelius joined the Ascension Parish OHSEP in 2017 after having served with the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office and St. James OHSEP. He holds a baccalaureate degree in liberal arts from Nicholls State University and a Bachelor of Science in Unified Public Safety Administration from Northwestern State University. He has attended numerous continuing education certifications and has been cited by his supervisor for excellence in his work.

"I am proud to call Dustin Montelius a part of the Emergency Operations Center," said OHSEP Director Rachael Wilkinson. She especially commended the leadership role he played in coordinating the many aspects of the EOC during the pandemic.

"An outstanding student, Dustin is an advocate for the safety of the public, and an advocate of NSU and the UPSA program," said Jack Atherton, associate professor. "Dustin has gained statewide respect in the arena of the professional emergency management community."

Emergency Management in Ascension Parrish is particularly challenging given the nation's major transportation corridors, Interstate 10 and the Mississippi River which trisect the parish, Atherton explained.

"The challenges of floods, hurricanes, high concentration of chemical facilities in the parish and a sensitive environment combine to a formidable list of factors faced daily in the parish by the local emergency management officials," Atherton said.



Dustin Montelius

Robinson pens note of appreciation for foundation received at Northwestern

Anthony Robinson, professor of percussion at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, sent a warm note to NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio in May to express gratitude to the NSU faculty and staff from his era (1971-1975) for the exceptional education he received and offer his good wishes as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The message is as follows.

The 2020-21 school term will mark the 50th anniversary of me setting foot on the NSU campus as a freshman music education major. Since graduating in '75, here's how I've represented my alma mater.

1976-1978: Began teaching career as general music specialist/6th grade band teacher at England Air Force Base Elementary School.

1978: Summoned to Marshall, Texas, by former NSU Band Director, Dr. Jerry Payne, to rebuild the Marshall ISO band program. I served as percussion specialist/assistant band director for 25 years with Dr. Payne. Along with other former NSU grads, Albert Hobson, Josie Ross and Elizabeth Bienvenu, we turned a very weak band program into one of the very best band programs in east Texas. Dr. Payne retired in the spring of 2002 (after a 45-year run: 20 in Louisiana and 25 in Texas) and I replaced him as director of bands for the Marshall ISD. I served the district in this capacity for five years and maintained the high quality band program established by Dr. Payne. There were a few "side bars" taken on by me during my Marshall tenure:

1978: Auditioned and earned the position of section percussionist with the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra (2020 concluded my 41st year with the orchestra).

1979: Joined the United States Air Force Reserve. Served 20 years with Detachment 1, 307 RED HORSE Squadron of Barksdale AFB (Civil Engineering); activated for Gulf War 1, Operation Desert Storm; served as chemical warfare instructor.

1990: Was asked by the Texas Music Educators Association to serve as percussion organizer/clinician for their All State bands and orchestras. The 2020 convention marked my 30th year to serve in this capacity with some of the finest student percussionists and wind band and orchestra conductors in the country, if not in the world.

1993: I was hired to teach applied percussion lessons, percussion methods and woodwind methods at East Texas Baptist University of Marshall.

Spring 2007: I retired from Marshall ISO after 30 years of service.

Fall 2007: Hired to teach secondary education music majors at Wiley College of Marshall (while still teaching at ETBU). Served as an instructor at Wiley College for eight years.

1999: Transferred from the Air Force Reserve to the Air National Guard. I served as principal percussionist and First Sergeant for the 531st Air Force Band under the command of NSU's Jeff Mathews.

2005: Activated and deployed to Woodville, Texas, to provide humanitarian aid to victims of Hurricane Rita.

December 2005: The first Air National Guard first sergeant to deploy to southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Assigned to the 386 Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron located at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, with forward Ops in Balad and Basra, Iraq.

Post MISD retirement included:

Percussion Specialist at Pittsburg ISD (2007-2009)

Percussion Specialist White Oak ISD (2009-2010)

Percussion Specialist Henderson ISD (2010-2012)

Percussion Specialist Spring Hill ISD (2012-2016)

As you can see, it has been quite a ride! I earned additional degrees from other universities; however, the foundation of my success was laid in Natchitoches at NSU. I have represented my NSU education on a large stage and, I'm forever grateful.

"Fork 'Em Demons!" Sincerely,

Anthony Robinson, Med.

Professor of Percussion, ETBU

Marshall ISD (Retired)

United States Air Force (Retired)



Anthony Robinson

Guillory leads Louisiana, Texas operations for Sodexo

Ronald “Ronnie” Guillory (2001, 2003) is vice president of operations for Sodexo, a food service management company that currently serves NSU. He has been working with the organization for eight years where he leads over 1,300 employees for universities in Louisiana and Texas. He has worked in the business for 20 years and over his career has been responsible for accounts in Louisiana, Texas and Maryland. He is responsible for campus dining operations, concessions, finance, investments, client relationships, construction, facilities management and marketing.

Guillory was on hand last year to represent Sodexo in the opening of Steak ‘n Shake, NSU’s newest dining option.

A native of Abbeville, Guillory earned both his Bachelor of Science degree in business and Master of Education at Northwestern State and later earned his Master of Business Administration. He credited Dr. Marcus Jones and John Winston as important mentors during his student days.

Guillory began his career as retail manager at Southeastern Louisiana University, was director of retail at Northwestern and has worked in management at Louisiana College, Stephen F. Austin, Johns Hopkins University, Tulane/Loyola and as district manager for Louisiana before his current position as vice president for Louisiana and Texas. Last year, he completed the Executive Management Program at Cornell University.

Guillory, his wife Jada, and children Austin and Ava reside in New Orleans.

At Sodexo, Ron has been a member of the Inclusion Council for four years and was the co-lead and executive sponsor for the Flexibility Optimizes Work group for the university

segment in North America. He also has served on the global flexibility task force for Sodexo where he was part of a group analyzing the impact of flexibility in the workplace.

In addition, Ronald has served on the hospitality committee for the Tri-Centennial campaign for the city of New Orleans, is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the famous 610 Stompers. He has also served as president of the St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Council, a YMCA mentor for inner-city youth in Baltimore, MD, LEAD mentor for Sodexo, and IMPACT mentor for Sodexo. He hopes the trajectory of his career will continue to advance to eventually become the top executive of the company. Meanwhile, he is also focused on being a great husband and father and making decisions now that will have a positive impact on future generations of his family.

Guillory also credits his parents, Mark and Glenda Broussard, for the sacrifices they made in supporting him.

Guillory noted that his brother, Shaquille Broussard, is a 2012 NSU graduate



Ronald Guillory

Gist and ensemble invited to international band, orchestra conference

An ensemble led by Northwestern State University alumnus Jim Gist has been selected to participate in one of the largest band and orchestra conferences in the country. The North Forney (Texas) High School Percussion Ensemble has been invited to perform at The 74th Midwest Clinic, an international band and orchestra conference on December 16-19 in Chicago. Gist said the mission of the North Forney Percussion Ensemble is “a relentless pursuit of excellence.” “The students set a goal in August 2019 to compete at a national level, and they have been committed to the process throughout the school year,” he said. “Even in these uncertain times we are living in, I am confident our students will rise to the challenge and commit to performing at a high level as we take our relentless pursuit of excellence to this national stage. We are proud to be North Forney Falcons, and I am certain we will represent our school community well in Chicago in December.”

Gist, a 1999 graduate of Northwestern State, earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree. While a student at NSU, he was a member of the NSU Wind Ensemble, Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band, and the NSU Percussion Ensemble.

“I give a lot of credit to my time at NSU for forming me

into the percussion director I am today,” said Gist. “The faculty including Mr. Bill Brent, Dr. Jeff Mathews, and Mr. Ken Green invested in me and had great influence on my career as both a teacher and musician.”

Gist earned a Master of Percussion Performance degree at Texas A&M University-Commerce. He is assistant band director and percussion instructor at North Forney High School in Forney, Texas, where he has taught for the last 11 years. Gist previously served as the drumline instructor at Baylor University, adjunct professor of percussion at East Texas Baptist University and percussion coordinator/assistant band director at both Rockwall-Heath High School in Rockwall, Texas and North Lamar High School in Paris, Texas.

Gist plays percussion at Lake Pointe Church and has performed with multiple groups including the Northeast Texas Symphony Orchestra. He enjoys arranging percussion music, writing marching band drill and teaching percussion camps throughout Louisiana and Texas. Gist is a member of the Percussive Arts Society and Texas Music Educators Association. Gist has been married to his wife Megan, a 1998 Northwestern graduate, for 21 years. They have one son, Jake, who is 13.

Alumnae Jackson, Johnson selected for 40 Under 40

Lauren Grimes Jackson and Dr. Donna Johnson were among the 40 young professionals recognized by the Young Professional Initiative for making an impact on the Shreveport-Bossier community.

YPI is a program through the Greater Shreveport Chamber in Northwest Louisiana. Finalists were honored last December at YPI's 40 Under 40 Gala at the Shreveport Convention Center.



Lauren Jackson

Jackson is a native of Opelousas. She is the daughter of the Rev. Michael Grimes and Minister Patsy Jones. In December 2008, she earned a Bachelor of Science in health and exercise science from Northwestern State and went on to earn master's degrees, one in banking and financial management, as well as an MBA.

Jackson's career in Shreveport began in 2008 at Regions Bank as a teller. After two months, she was promoted to financial service specialist. In 2009, she was promoted to assistant manager; in 2010, she was promoted to vice president/branch manager. Her branch in North Bossier was a consecutive Chairman's Club branch winner, which performed in the top percentile of the company under the leadership of a mentor and later under her own leadership.

In 2016, Capital One Bank recruited Jackson as a business banker; she served in that role for nearly two years. After a company realignment at Capital One, she returned home to Regions Bank in 2018 and started her career in mortgage lending, where she has been in the top 10 percent of new MLOs with Regions Mortgage.

She is a proud mother of two boys. She is the author of "Purposeful Pain," which is available on Amazon and all digital platforms.

Johnson is a young professional who has excelled in her field and enjoys helping others succeed. Joining the staff of Louisiana Tech University in 2018, her current role as assistant vice president for academic advancement and partnerships places her in a position to oversee of the Louisiana Tech Academic Success Center in Bossier City, the Tech Barksdale Program and the Tech Shreveport Center, which all provide advanced educational opportunities for area residents. Johnson taught in the Texas and Louisiana public school systems before moving into higher education. She has managed multiple university expansion and development initiatives, bolstered educational advancement in support of the Department of Defense and assumed teaching roles with Louisiana Tech, Northwestern State, Bossier Parish Community College and Ashford University.

Johnson's love of education is evident as she has continued to pursue learning opportunities throughout her career. She currently holds a Bachelor of Science in occupational education from Wayland Baptist University, a Master of Education from Wayland Baptist University, a Master of Arts (English) from Northwestern State and a Doctor of Education from Louisiana Tech.

Johnson has been active in service to the university and community through participation on various committees and workgroups, including serving as president of Open Arms Adoptions, serving on the State Taskforce for Adult Learners, and serving on numerous committees with the Shreveport and Bossier Chambers of Commerce. She is a mom to two teenagers, Jacob and Anna.



Dr. Donna Johnson

Antoon tournament rescheduled for July 25

The Johnny Antoon Memorial Golf Tournament, sponsored by the NSU Foundation, has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 25 at Northwestern Hills Golf Course. Proceeds will benefit the Johnny Antoon Scholarship, established to honor the Natchitoches businessman and long-time NSU supporter.

"For my Dad's 65th Birthday, a scholarship at Northwestern State University was set up in his name. We lost my sweet Dad on November 25, 2015. A few years ago, we began hosting a golf tournament to benefit his scholarship. Our hope is to keep his legacy alive for many years to come," said Danielle Antoon Cobb, associate director of Alumni Affairs.

The festivities will begin with a pre-party, tentatively set for 7 p.m. Friday, July 24 at Antoon's. Tickets are a minimum \$10 donation to the Antoon Scholarship.

Check-in for the tournament will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Mulligans can be purchased for \$10 at check-in. Prizes will be based on the number of teams. There will be at least one gimmick hole, closest to the hole and longest drive prizes.

The golf entry fee is \$100, which provides one golfer with a cart, lunch and refreshments and one ticket to the pre-party. Tee signs can be purchased for \$50.

A golf sponsorship of \$400 includes a tee sign, entry for four golfers with cart, lunch and refreshments for four golfers and four tickets to the pre-party. Sponsorships must be received by July 17 to guarantee a golf cart.

In conjunction, the Antoon's Wild Women's Pokeno Brunch will take place at 10 a.m. at Antoon's. Tickets are \$30 which includes brunch at Antoon's, bottomless mimosas and bloody marys, one ticket to the pre-party and pokeno.

For more information or for a registration form, contact Erin Dupree, assistant director of donor relations at (318) 357-5699 or brossette@nsula.edu.





Northwestern is making plans for fall reopening

Northwestern State University is joining sister schools in the University of Louisiana System in planning a return to face-to-face instruction for the Fall 2020 semester. NSU, along with other institutions, is designing plans specific to the NSU community that prioritize the health and safety of students, faculty and staff and the university's educational mission.

"We have missed the usual activity that normally takes place on our campus. We are looking forward to welcoming students back to campus as appropriate safeguards and health measures are implemented to ensure the health and welfare of our personnel, which remains the university's highest priority," said NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio.

"Throughout this event our member institutions have prioritized safety and learning. Those will remain our chief

considerations as we begin the process of re-populating our campuses," UL System President and CEO Jim Henderson said. "The university experience is more than just attending class and we are optimistic, with the right safeguards in place and following the guidance of health experts, that we will be able to safely return to campus in August."

During the spring stay-at-home order, faculty and staff worked remotely to help students complete the semester and participated in two virtual sessions of Freshman Connection. While the campus was mostly empty, administrators worked to ensure that buildings and facilities are ready for reopening.

"Red River Sanitors has conducted thorough cleaning and sanitization of all restrooms and public areas throughout the campus in recent weeks," Maggio said. "The Physical

Plant staff is working to install glass and plexiglass barriers in high traffic areas of the Student Services and WRAC facilities and will have these projects completed over the next few weeks. Hand sanitizer stations have also been placed in high traffic areas. Elevators will have limited occupancy of two passengers at a time."

In April, UL System Board Chair Mark Romero appointed an ad hoc committee on post-pandemic operations to coordinate protocols for reopening campuses and reviewing System-level guidelines to assist universities in transitioning to more normal operations.

The System's guidelines address the re-populating of campuses based on external and internal conditions including segmenting return by waves, testing requirements, increased hygiene, communication practices and distancing protocols.

Business faculty expertise helps small businesses stay afloat

Northwestern State University's College of Business and Technology in partnership with the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce launched a new monthly lunch and learn series to help small businesses cope during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first session of the virtual series focused on small business sustainability in turbulent times with Dr. Vianka Miranda, assistant professor of finance, and Dr. Elizabeth Prejean, assistant professor of management, as featured speakers. Miranda and Prejean introduced practices that small and emerging businesses should implement to remain sustainable during an unexpected business interruption such as COVID-19, as well as resources that may be useful during uncertain times.

"Personally, I thought it was excellent and I was proud to accompany Dr. Miranda for our first debut," Prejean said. "We had several great questions from business owners from the chat rooms and have answered a few since the event."

"We had a wonderful turnout," said Dr. Carmella Parker, coordinator of outreach and special projects and associate professor in the School of Business. Parker coordinated a June session to focus on Paycheck Protection Program, or PPP.

Miranda is a business professional and consultant with government sector and private industry experience encompassing administration, finance, data analysis, strategic planning and organizational development. She operated a business in the Greater New Orleans region during and after the 2005 Hurricane Katrina and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil spill. Miranda has been a small business owner since 2004 and

maintained operations before, during and after the disasters.

She is an assistant professor of finance at NSU, where she holds the Tommy Johnson Endowed Professorship in Business. Miranda holds a Doctorate of Business Administration in finance with special research interest in entrepreneurship and small business development and sustainability, a Master of Business Administration in finance, a post-baccalaureate certificate in applied business studies and a bachelor's degree in financial economics. She is a licensed Louisiana real estate broker and Six Sigma Black Belt candidate.

Prejean is a business professional and consultant working with small business in the private sector and has industry experience in human resources, administration, strategic planning and organizational development. She has a Doctor of Business Administration, a Master of Business Administration and holds a certificate in human resources. She is also the recipient of the Valley Electric/SWEPCO Endowed Professorship for Business at NSU where she is assistant professor of management in the College of Business and Technology. She has worked in seven different industries using her expertise in human resources and management and currently teaches strategic management at the university which is the capstone class for undergraduates. Her students were recently recognized for their efforts in helping local businesses during the COVID-19 crisis.

The new monthly series will feature guest speakers and seminars aimed at assisting local businesses and the community in remaining strong and intact in a turbulent economic climate and the "new normal" to follow.



2020 Morgan Scholarship recipients are, top row from left, Allen Ashley, Andrew Dubriske, Aron Stephens, Bailee Rattanchai, Cara Davlin, Char'Tarian Wilson, Colton Campbell and Courtney Chancellor. On the second row are Daniel Larin, Elizabeth Coleman, Emily Miller, Grace Gosserand, Haley Sylvester, Hannah Angell, Jacob Norris and Javier Garcia. On the third row are Jonathan Castillo, Katelyn Kennedy, Katelyn Stevens, Katie Cole, Nicholas Alivares, Kelsi Horn, Kristen Breedlove and Lauren Knight. On the bottom row are Libby Blair, McKenzie Knotts, Natalee Cook, Peyton Harville, Ryann Bizette, Shelby Cambre, Steven Gardner and Trace Anthon.

Tri Sigmas, Pi Kappas awarded Morgan Scholarships

Members of Alpha Zeta Chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority at Northwestern State University hosted a virtual program for the Morgan Extra Mile Scholarship to recognize students who were named recipients of scholarships funded by David D. and Sherry F. Morgan. Special guests included Mr. and Mrs. Morgan of Austin, Texas; Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority National President Natalie Averette of Virginia Beach, Virginia; NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio and Chapter Advisors Jacque Crew and Reatha Cox.

Members of the Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi who were named scholarship recipients were recognized in a virtual announcement. National Pi Kappa Phi Chief Executive Officer Mark E. Timmes and his assistant Vicky Halsey assisted with the fraternity award selection process, along with a panel of alumni from Beta

Omicron and Chapter Advisors Doug Ireland and Dr. Chris Lyles. Pi Kappa Phi honored their award recipients through a social media campaign earlier in April.

The annual Morgan Extra Mile Scholarship program, originally scheduled for March 19, was cancelled due to coronavirus safety measures. Cara Davlin of Sigma Sigma Sigma and Javier Garcia of Pi Kappa Phi were banquet co-chairs.

The Morgans, who are long-time supporters of Northwestern State, created the scholarships to recognize members of Sigma Sigma Sigma and Pi Kappa Phi who are committed to going the "Extra Mile" to achieve success. Recipients of First Generation Scholarships are the first in their immediate families to attend college. Members participate in an application process that is reviewed by

chapter alumni before selections are made. Since 2018, the Morgans have awarded more than \$96,000 in student scholarships.

This year's Tri Sigma members awarded First Generation Scholarships are Kristen Breedlove of Campti, Shelby Cambre of Livingston, Courtney Chancellor of Gray, Katie Cole of Campti, Kelsi Horn of Many, Lauren Knight of Haughton, Bailee Rattanchai of Haughton, Brette Reaux of Youngsville and Katelyn Stevens of Minden.

Members of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity awarded the Morgan First Generation Scholarships were Allen Ashley of Shreveport, Jonathan Castillo of Bossier City, Javier Garcia of Bossier City and Char'Tarian Wilson of Greenwood.

The Sherry F. Morgan Extra Mile Scholarship was established in 2017

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Scholarship established in memory of professor John G. Williams

The family of John Garland Williams established a scholarship in his memory upon his sudden passing May 24 at age 75.

John G. Williams was a member of Northwestern State's faculty for 47 years teaching business law. He was an adjunct faculty member for 19 years and became a full-time faculty member for 28 years and was a professor of business. Williams also maintained a law practice in Natchitoches and was first assistant district attorney for Natchitoches Parish.

He greatly enjoyed teaching over the course of 47 years, sometimes teaching the children and grandchildren of former students.

A 1962 graduate of St. Mary's Academy, he earned a degree in agribusiness from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and graduated from Tulane Law School with a Juris Doctorate Degree in civil law.

He entered the U.S. Marine Corps on active duty in September 1968 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in February 1969. He graduated from the Naval Justice School in August 1969 and joined the 1st Marine Division in Camp Pendleton, California, where he was a defense lawyer, a prosecutor and finally was appointed by the Secretary of the Navy as a military judge. Williams returned home and began to practice law.

Williams' wife, Suzanne, is teacher certification coordinator

for NSU's School of Education.

A graveside service was held May 28. Honorary pallbearers include his longtime teaching aides Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Hobart Macgroniac, Lillie Licksillet, and Susie Stepingofetchit.

A memorial service will be held at a later time for family and friends to reminisce, tell story after story, and share their memories of him.

Criteria for the scholarship are still being finalized, but friends who wish to contribute to the John G. Williams Memorial Scholarship in Business may do so through the NSU Foundation, 535 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA 71497. Donors can also visit northwesternstatealumni.com and specify their gift under the Give Now tab.



John G. Williams

Morgan Scholarships, continued from page 11

and has since awarded more than \$20,000 in student scholarships to members of Sigma Sigma Sigma. This year's recipients were Hannah Angell of Shreveport, Ryann Bizette of Livonia, Elizabeth Blair of Texarkana, Texas; Elizabeth Coleman of Napoleonville, Natalee Cook of Vivian, Cara Davlin of Stonewall, Grace Gosserand of Ventress, Peyton Harville of Bossier City, Katelyn Kennedy of Baker, McKenzie Knotts of Keithville and Emily Miller of Grand Cane.

Haley Sylvester of Baton Rouge was awarded the Lisa Burton Steadfast Scholarship.

Pi Kappa Phi members who were named David D. Morgan Extra Mile Scholars were Trace Anthon of Hammond, Colton Campbell of Coushatta, Andrew Dubriske of Barksdale AFB, Steven Gardner of Benton, Daniel Larin of Little Elm, Texas; Jacob Norris of Monterey, Nicholas Oliveras of Oak Point, Texas, and Aron Stephens of Franklinton.

David Morgan, a 1973 NSU graduate and alumnus of NSU's Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi, established the Extra Mile Scholarship in 2008 to recognize members of Pi Kappa Phi who distinguish themselves through academic success, chapter leadership, campus involvement and part-time employment. The scholarship has since grown and is awarded at the national level as well as in the local chapter.

The Sherry Fargerson Morgan Extra Mile Scholarship for Sigma Sigma Sigma was announced in 2017 and mirrors the criteria for Pi Kappa Phi by honoring students who are outstanding and high achieving members of the chapter.



Construction is nearly complete on the house that will be occupied by the Beta Omicron chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity on Organization Row. The 5,300-square-foot house, expected to open in January, features 12 single bedrooms, four study lounges, a large meeting room, den, full laundry and a kitchen. NSU's Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi was an outgrowth of Phi Kappa Nu Fraternity founded in the 1920s at Louisiana State Normal College, as NSU was then known. Pi Kappa Nu became part of Pi Kappa Phi in 1956. Jack McCain of Natchitoches was president at the time and was initiated as member Number One. The chapter was reorganized in 2000 and, with assistance from alumni, purchased a house on University Parkway.

Belinda Williams Scholarship will benefit nursing or biology majors

Friends, family and school classmates are honoring the memory of Belinda Michelle Williams by creating an endowed scholarship in her name that will benefit Northwestern State University students majoring in nursing and biology.

Gabrielle Bellard, a nursing major from Opelousas, is the inaugural recipient of the Belinda Michelle Williams Memorial Scholarship that will be awarded to a nursing major each fall and a biology major each spring semester with preference to a minority female with a 3.0 or better grade point average.

"Ms. Bellard exceeds the qualifications and absolutely represents my sister's commitment to academic excellence as well as her passion for helping others. Never has the need been greater to help individuals who wish to become health professionals due to the COVID-19 world crisis. As such, we are proud to support Ms. Bellard and in doing so, help continue my sister's legacy," said Williams' sister, Dr. Carmella Parker.

"Belinda was committed to excellence and education. The recipient of her scholarship is committed to both. We are pleased that she will continue Belinda's legacy," Parker added.

Williams was born May 24, 1978, in Alexandria, to the late Tom Williams, Jr. and Linda Gail Culbert Williams. She was reared in Leesville after her father, a Vietnam War veteran, died at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. She attended schools in Vernon Parish and graduated from Leesville High School in May

1996. Upon her completion of high school, she continued her education and attended Northwestern State University.

"She absolutely adored Northwestern State University, as it is a family school," Parker said.

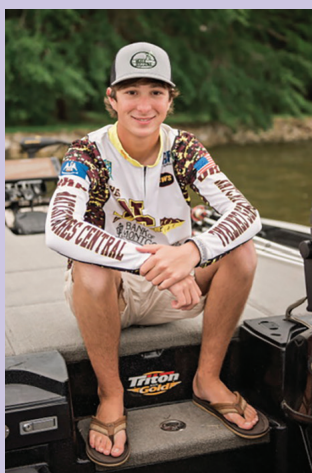
Williams graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science in Healthcare Management. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Louisiana State University and Nurse Practitioner certification from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Williams, a former captain in the United States Army and a Nurse Practitioner, was attending the St. James Medical School in St. Vincent Island at the time of her passing.

The scholarship was made possible by her classmates in Leesville High School's graduating class of 1996, friends, family and faculty at NSU.

Friends who wish to contribute to the scholarship can visit northwesternstatealumni.com, click Give to the NSU Foundation link and indicate in comments the Belinda Michelle Williams Memorial Scholarship.



Belinda Williams



Wes Rollo

Rollo Scholarship established for Fishing Team

The family of Wesley Aaron Rollo established a scholarship in his name to benefit the NSU Fishing Team. Rollo, a Natchitoches resident, had just completed his freshman year at NSU when he passed away May 5. Rollo was a childhood cancer survivor and angler who fished for the Natchitoches Central High School Fishing Team and was named a Bassmaster High School All-State Honorable Mention in 2018 and the 2019 Bassmaster All-State and All-American teams, the latter an honor reserved for the best twelve high school anglers in the United States.

Rollo joined the NSU Fishing Team last year and was awarded the Dylan Kyle Poche Memorial Scholarship. To give back to others, Rollo started the "Cajun Christmas" for the Ronald McDonald house in Memphis, Tennessee, and found time to take pediatric cancer patients on fishing trips. His plans for the future included starting the W.A.R. (Wesley Aaron Rollo) Foundation. He intended that it focus solely on children with serious diseases or conditions, it's mission to introduce them to the joy of fishing.



V&M Baits and Posey's Sports Center teamed up to organize a hat fund raiser and raise \$2,937.40 for the NSU Fishing Team in honor of Wes Rollo. From left are Matt Clark, owner of Posey's Sports Center; Jeff and Sonya Rollo, parents of Wes; Fishing Team Sponsor Juddy Hamous, Kevin Jeane, president of V&M, and Erin Dupree, assistant director of donor relations for the NSU Foundation.

Joe Delaney Memorial brings together spirit of community, generosity

Vahe Gregorian, Kansas City Star columnist/contributing writer

Before the world as we knew it came unmoored amid the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, it was revealed in late February about a poignant vision to honor heroic Chief Joe Delaney with a monument where the man who couldn't swim died trying to save three children from drowning.

Thirty-seven years after No. 37's death and on the morning after the Chiefs' Super Bowl victory, Marvin Dearman, the police diver who tried to save him, woke up with what he called a revelation:

It was time to properly memorialize Delaney at Chennault Park in Monroe with an aim toward a dedication ceremony on June 29, the anniversary of his death.

What's happened since then has been another sort of revelation — a heartening one worth sharing in this bizarre time when we all need reminders and reassurances of the best of human nature and community.

Within two days of The Star writing about Dearman's wish, Tripp Johnson of Johnson Granite Supply in North Kansas City was compelled to contact Dearman and donate the monument, an enhanced design and installation.

Johnson immediately understood Dearman to be "a soul (who) ... brings people together." Just as he's always thought of Delaney and the beacon of his story of running toward danger instead of away from it.

"What an inspiration. What can he teach us even years and years later?" said Johnson, a fourth-generation memorialist and owner of the company. "Let that next generation or two walk by and read this and think, 'What would we do?'"

We see that generosity of spirit illuminated daily now in the valor of our

doctors and nurses and caregivers and first responders.

And it's appropriately amplified by what seems to be an unprecedented appreciation for their remarkable efforts and sacrifices, whether in empty ballparks lit at night, or neighbors cheering them on, or in our hearts.

Beyond that, while some might try to exploit this situation, we are sustained by so many acts of kindness, gestures of giving instead of taking.

Enough that we can choose to focus on that to give it more life and light as we all face this question one way or another in this chaos:

"What's our character going to be?" Johnson said.

Which brings us back to the affirming notion of how so many responded to Dearman's initiative on behalf of a man whose selfless last act was both tragic and inspiring.

The call and response, Dearman said Tuesday, is "a feel-good story in these most difficult times."

While some aspects of this project quite properly have been on pause in recent weeks as the focus is on more immediate causes, a man who has felt haunted over the years lately has been shedding tears of overwhelmed wonder about the kindness of strangers.

Consider the 117 individual donations of \$37 received from Louisiana to New York, Florida to Texas, South Dakota to Maryland ... but mostly Kansas and Missouri.

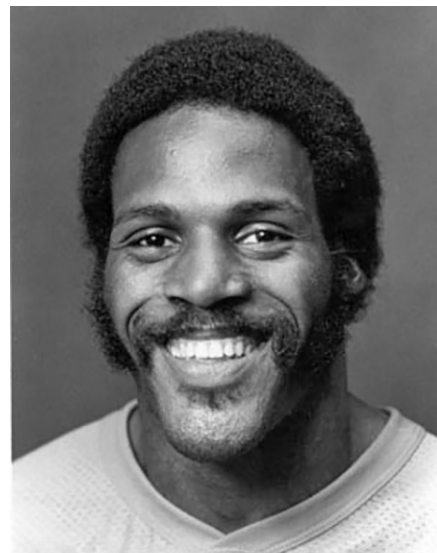
Dearman initially had planned to set up a GoFundMe account. But between The Star's article and word of mouth, that became unnecessary.

After all, Delaney's story is so absorbing ... and always bears sharing in every way possible.

Dozens of people included notes to Dearman, who has remained close to Delaney's widow, Carolyn, and family and has worked the last 12 years managing Kilpatrick's Serenity Gardens funeral home. He sent a number of them to me and urged me to share the most moving ones.

Here are a few:

"I didn't know Joe, of course, but I think about his courageous act more often than you'd think," wrote a man



from Mission, Kansas. "If someone asks me who my hero is, I say Joe Delaney. No doubt about it."

"I remember Joe so vividly," a former Chiefs employee wrote. "He was such a wonderful runner, but best, he was a wonderful person. It stunned all of us at the Chiefs when he left us. God bless him."

"In honor of a true HERO!" said a note that came from Kansas City. "Good luck with this worthwhile tribute to #37."

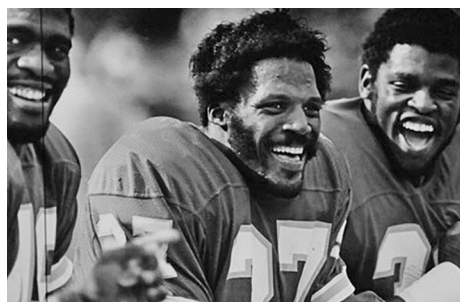
"Great idea, great man, great cause, great honor," wrote a man from Leawood, Kansas.

"As a Chiefs season ticket-holder, I was given a jersey and asked whose name I would like on the back of it and I chose 'Delaney,'" a man from Parkville wrote. "I wear it proudly and am often told what a great choice I made. I wish you all good luck in your funding efforts for his memorial. I also pray that your grief has turned into fond memories and pride."

"Thank you for your service and for your support and friendship with Joe Delaney's family," wrote a couple from Gladstone, Missouri, adding, "May God bless you for all you have done and continue to do."

"I was only a casual fan of the KC Chiefs when that tragedy happened but am saddened & proud of Joe Delaney each time I think of or am reminded of his actions on that fateful day," a man from Gardner, Kansas, wrote.

"For even the son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many," began a note from Monroe, citing Mark 10:45 from the Bible and adding, "I remember going to (Chennault Park) and always had a great time with my family. I still can think back



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12 to be inducted into N Club Hall of Fame

A trio of Northwestern State football standouts, including All-Pro return specialist Terrence McGee, are joined by four-time track and field All-American Stephanie Sowell among NSU's 12-person 2020 N-Club Hall of Fame class.

Joining McGee and Sowell are NSU all-time rushing king Tony Taylor and All-American defensive end Robert Daniel, three-time national assist leader La'Terrica "Cooda" Dobin, five-tool baseball outfielder Jordan Robison, national javelin qualifier Regina Roe, softball standout Linette Stuart, who doubled as a conference javelin champion, and cross country runner Randy Moore, a standout from NSU's era as an NAIA powerhouse.

Terry Alario Sr. and Terry Alario Jr., the first father-son combination in NSU baseball history, will receive the N-Club's Distinguished Service Award while ground-breaking assistant football coach Al Miller is the first recipient of the N-Club

Pioneer Award for his innovative and influential role in strength and conditioning training in the mid-1970s.

In addition, baseball pitcher Bob Kairis will be inducted after being chosen as part of the Class of 2019. Kairis had to miss this past year's induction festivities.

The 12-person class was selected by a combination of voting by members of the N-Club, the association of former Northwestern State athletic letterwinners, and a committee comprising N-Club members and NSU administrators.

Enshrinement in the N-Club Hall of Fame is among the highest honors NSU bestows on its former competitors and staff. Those receiving N-Club Hall of Fame recognition are showcased in a digital N-Club display in Prather Coliseum. Induction ceremonies are scheduled for 10 a.m. Oct. 17 in Magale Recital Hall.

Delaney continued from page 14

to going one day and not the next because of that tragedy. ... May this provide some comfort, peace and knowledge for the Delaney family (that) Joe was appreciated/honored for his actions."

The cause that galvanized Johnson and so many donors also moved plenty of others to act. Enough so that the money donated will be funneled either to the Delaney 37 Foundation or further memorialization — Dearman suggested from the start that any contributions in excess of the costs would be.

Free of charge, Dearman said, Holyfield Construction in Monroe is contributing the foundation. River City Ready Mix is supplying the concrete. The City of Monroe has donated the site.

Meanwhile, Johnson's team continues to work on the design for a project Carolyn Delaney in February called "wonderful." Memorial designer Kaylee Robinson is crafting the back of the memorial with more personal wording to complement the testimonial on the front.

"We have the reference to the Chiefs (on the front)," Johnson said, "but he was much more than that."

Or as Dearman thinks of him: "How he inspired others by never thinking of himself. How he never cashed a (Chiefs) check, gave it to Carolyn every (payday). How he grew up in poverty ... (And) how he has inspired others through this unselfish act."

At least at this stage, Johnson and Dearman remain optimistic that the monument can be delivered by June 29 even if a ceremony might have to wait. Perhaps one day in the not-too-distant future, this will create some momentum and impetus for a memorial to Delaney here in Kansas City, too.

In the precious present, though, this effort stands for itself as a beautiful tribute to Delaney ...

And to the examples of many we might do well to embrace with so much unmoored around us.

"Why are we here?" Johnson said. "Are we going to leave it a little better than we found it?"

Those interested in contributing can send checks made out to Kilpatrick's Serenity Gardens, with Delaney 37 Foundation in the memo line, addressed to Kilpatrick's Serenity Gardens, 8729 Cypress St., West Monroe, Louisiana, 71291.



In Memory

1947 – Arthur “Art” Leland Brewer,
April 21, 2020, Jonesboro

1949 – Rev. Carlos Alvin Welch,
Feb. 29, 2020, Baton Rouge

1952 – John Clifford Zenter Sr.,
May 30, 2020, Bossier City

1954 – Emma Jean Brister (Richardson Ave),
May 24, 2020, Seabrook, Texas

1954 – Ophelia Inez Laroux Vanasse,
May 21, 2020, Waterbury, Connecticut

1957, 1958 – Dr. Robert Alost
(NSU President 1986-1996),
April 17, 2020, Natchitoches

1957 – John H. McTyre, May 4, 2020,
Natchitoches

1967 – Virgie LaNell Free Lee, May 18, 2020,
Frierson

1958 – Juanita Penney Thornton,
March 27, 2020, DeRidder

1962 – Evelyn Penney Malone, Nov. 27,
2018, Peachtree City, Georgia

1962 – Merle Payne Raborn,
March 31, 2020, Rayville

1962 – Patricia Sanders Dehoney,
April 1, 2020, Houston

1962 – Jimmie Knott Holmes,
May 29, 2020, Natchitoches

1963 – Thomas Jerry Martin,
March 12, 2020, Winnfield

1964 – Robert “Mac” Roy McJimsey,
March 21, 2020, Loreauville

1965 – James Frank Kirkland, April 5, 2020,
Natchitoches

1966 – Gary A. Jones, Sept. 10, 2019, Many

1969 – Edith Jane DeWitt Buchanan,
June 7, 2020, Conway, Arkansas

1971 – Robert Ray Jackson, May 23, 2020,
Bossier City

1971 – William Ronald “Ron” Mayfield,
May 31, 2020, Natchitoches

1973 – Robert “Bobby” Thorpe Lewis,
May 22, 2020, Pleasant Hill

1973 – Len McCain, Jun 1, 2020, Coushatta

1976 – Denise Veuleman McAlpin,
May 22, 2020, Natchitoches

1977 – Sandy McCain, April 20, 2020,
Marksville

1978 – Beverly Parker Harrell,
April 17, 2020, Natchitoches

1981 – Fay Katheryn Mathew McLeod,
May 29, 2020, Natchitoches

1984 – Teresa Spears Riley, May 30, 2020,
Ruston

1985 – Mary Fay Lapeyrouse Freshley,
May 20, 2020, Jeanerette

1994 – Randy Paul Davis, May 6, 2020,
Pineville

2011 – Rita Michael Ware, June 5, 2020,
Doyline

2018 – Michael Marceaux, April 16, 2020,
Shreveport

Keaton Allen Hataway, March 13, 2020,
Winnfield

John Allen Martinez Jr., March 18, 2020,
Marthaville

Benny Nolley Sr., March 18, 2020,
Natchitoches

Shirley D. Smith, April 11, 2020, DeRidder

Mark Edward Fox, April 17, 2020,
Natchitoches

Jace Prescott, April 23, 2020, Orange, Texas

Robert Clayton Luneau, May 1, 2020,
Centerpoint

Wes Rollo, May 5, 2020, Natchitoches

Clyde F. Swanson Jr., April 26, 2020,
Winnfield

Carolyn Michelle Payne Smith, May 2, 2020,
Natchitoches

Marilyn Lumpkins, May 26, 2020,
Natchitoches



ENVELOPE



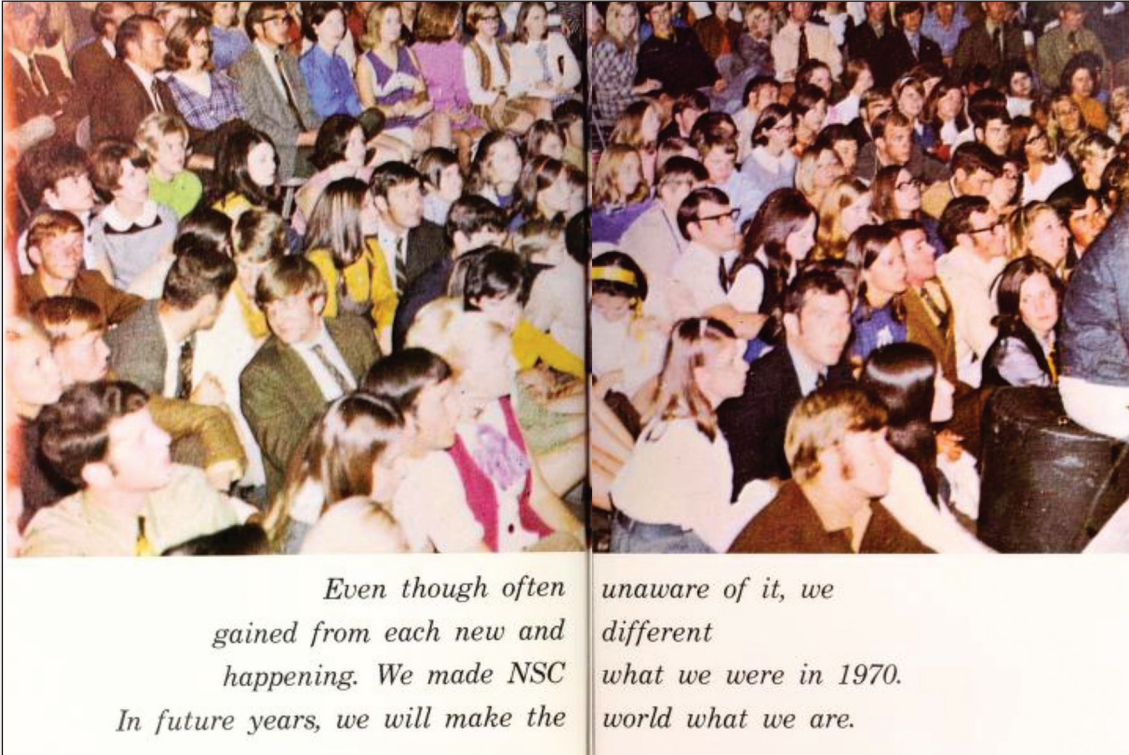
SUPPORT NSU ATHLETICS

Donations to the Demons Unlimited Foundation help provide scholarships for over 350 deserving student-athletes each year, accounting for over \$250,000 in expenses for the Athletic Department. Simply put: We cannot do what we do without you. Your support allows us to remain competitive and continue to enhance the educational and athletic experiences of our student-athletes. Thank you, and Fork ‘em, Demons!



Looking Back

Members of Northwestern State's Class of 1970 were unable to celebrate their Golden Jubilee this past spring. The class will be honored this fall with a special reunion and commemoration Oct. 16-17 in conjunction with Homecoming festivities. This photo appeared in the 1970 Potpourri.



Guess Who



The 2000 Potpourri featured a story on how students spend their leisure time with this photo of three musicians practicing. Can you name them? If so, e-mail jacksonl@nsula.edu with the correct answer, your name, city of residence and the year you graduated.

The Spring 2020 Guess Who featured two NSC gymnasts and their coach preparing to travel with international gymnastics teams. They were Coach Armando Vega, John Ellas and Paul Tickenoff.

Those offering guess are as follows.

William L. Myers (1969), Opelousas
Brant N. Bordelon (1971), Coushatta
Lynn Mann (1974), Ferriday
James K. Rambin (1974), West Monroe
Pat Davis (1971), Henryetta, Oklahoma
E. Cheryl Ramsey Eber (1972), Oxford, Mississippi
Cyndee Osborne Raines (1970), Arlington, Texas
Anna Maire Lafont Nugent (1978, 1981), Natchitoches
Vikki Hale (1976), Houston
Alan (1971) and JoAnn (1970) Dombrowski, Bonita Springs, Florida
Ron Morrow (1971), Texarkana, Texas
Susan Tanner Hawthorne, (1971), Paradise Valley, Arizona
Pat O'Brian (1975), Covington, who writes, "Four of us from the New Orleans YMCA gymnastic team went to NSU, Jerry Wang, Bruce Mc Gartlin, Richard Russell and myself. I love Natchitoches and my wife and I have been back many times. I remember going to a gymnastic event at NSU in the late 1960s.
Daniel Sheffer (1971, 1972) Akron, Ohio
Robert Herrmann (1970), Wappingers Falls, New York. "I was on the team," he writes.

Northwestern State University
Alumni Columns
Natchitoches, LA 71497-0002



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